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Richard Wood, Ph.D., earned his doctorate from Oakland University in Educational Leadership. During his career he has taught at all levels from elementary school to the university level. He has successfully served as a principal at several elementary schools and then was named the Director of Educational Technology for a major suburban district. Currently, Dr. Wood works as an educational consultant focusing on curriculum, instruction and assessment improvement in urban districts. Most recently, Dr. Wood and his business associate, Helen L. Burz, worked as Middle Start coaches in several middle schools in the State of Michigan under a Comprehensive School Reform Grant.

Dr. Wood and Ms. Burz are uniquely qualified in that they have been trained at the ABCS Coaches Institute by Michigan State University and the Michigan Department of Education to work with High Priority Schools. Additionally, they have worked as turn-around specialists, academic coaches and trainers, and as curriculum and instruction auditors for several school districts. Dr. Wood's background with Title I programs include his teaching and administrative experience as well as his current work with High Priority Schools. Dr. Wood specializes in facilitating workshops on data collection, analysis, goal setting, action planning and the facilitation of the implementation of school improvement plans.